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CIA Prepares to Suspend One of Its Super-Sleuths

Documents Furor in Georgetown

Suspension of CIA Super-Agent Expected

By JULIAN MORRISON

The CIA plans to formally suspend one of this country's most respected intelligence agents today in the wake of disclosures that one of its young agents "discovered" classified documents in the man's home here last week.

And even as the CIA acted, the latest controversy swirling about it reached Capitol Hill where Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.) a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and an outspoken critic of the Agency's operations, said he's asked for a full committee study of the incident.

The suspension notice was scheduled to be handed to Hans V. Tofte at his home at 1667 35th, nw, which was entered by a CIA agent July 24 in what Mr. Tofte described as a silly cloak and dagger raid to retrieve Agency documents the agent said he spotted there earlier on what was described as an innocent house hunting expedition.

The 35-year-old, Danish-born Tofte, who's been an on-again, off-again Government intelligence agent for 23 years, has had a cloak and dagger career that puts James Bond to shame.

He was one of "Wild Bill" Donovan's favorite operatives during World War II when the legendary Donovan ran this country's Office of Strategic Services, and was later credited by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway with "the collection of vital intelligence on Korea, based on his specialized knowledge of unconventional warfare."

Mr. Tofte practically cut his teeth on a spy's handbook, beginning with the German invasion of Denmark in 1940 when he became a charter member of the Danish underground.

In 1941 he had to flee for his life and wormed his way to freedom thru a tortuous route that included Germany itself, France, Spain and Portugal.

Later that year, he was recruited by a top secret British-Danish organization in the Orient and was flown to Australia and then to Singapore where he took Commando warfare training.

They year 1942 found him running a supply line into China over the Burma Road and leading a guerilla force of Gurkhas and Shan tribesmen and, still later, operating clandestinely in China near Hong Kong.

But he wanted to transfer to American service and in 1943

Gen. Donovan picked him up, had him commissioned and sent him to Cairo.

On Sept. 16, 1943, Gen. Donovan wrote a memorandum to Army command advising that he was sending Capt. Tofte and another officer "on a secret mission of great importance to Sicily and the Italian mainland" weeks after U.S. Forces had invaded the island.

Then Capt. Tofte pulled off his biggest single coup of the war, organizing a secret supply line across the Adriatic to the Partisan Yugoslav forces under Marshall Tito — an operation that earned him the Legion of Merit and involved 42 ships, battles with PT boats, the secret landing of 2000 Partisan troops along the Yugoslav coast, parachute operations and the successful evacuation of 800 wounded underground fighters — all under the noses of German forces.

CIVILIAN

After the war he joined American Overseas Airways as operations manager in Copenhagen, then resigned to become president of his wife's family business in Mason City, Iowa.

But the Korean War had barely started when the Government summoned him back

into the intelligence field.

A mutual friend, Mason City businessman Hanford MacNider, wrote letters of introduction both to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, under whom he'd served during World War II, and to a MacArthur aide.

"VALUABLE"

To the aide, on July 28, 1950, he said, "I am asking my good friend and fellow townsman, Lt. Col. Hans V. Tofte, now at your headquarters, to deliver this note to you. I have no idea what he is up to or how he is being used, but if you have not already met him in the pressure of the present emergency, I want to be sure his peculiarly valuable Far East background is being employed.

"Tofte did some outstanding work in the last big fracas for Donovan, who told me only a few days ago that he considers him one of the best in almost any capacity for which his experience qualifies him."

Co. Tofte went on to organize Korean guerilla operations for the late Far East commander and was subsequently lauded by Gen. Ridgeway for developing techniques for the rescue of airmen downed behind enemy lines.

He left active Government again during the Korean War, but continued his long and close association with such top CIA officials as Richard Helms, now its director, and the late Frank G. Wisner, both of whom urged him repeatedly to return to the Agency.

In a letter dated Aug. 20, 1954, that began "Dick Dick", Mr. Tofte wrote to Mr. Helms at his home at 4105 Bradley Lane, Bethesda, explaining that he was trying to wind up his Iowa business affairs "in order that I can button up things out here and return to duty in Washington complete with family."

LOG JAM

"I am afraid that this is beginning to sound somewhat monotonous, but I know that you appreciate what I am trying to do. For my part I certainly appreciate all the co-operation, that you and Frank have given me to assist me in clearing the decks for future action with the Agency."

Mr. Tofte could not wind up his personal affairs as early as he thought and did not re-join the CIA until 1957.

In 1959 and 1960 he was engaged on an important South American mission, and later the handsome, ruddy-faced Dane played a major part in the CIA's operations in Guatemala and, still later, had a high role in the planning stages of the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion, which he recommended be halted because of morale among the Cuban exiles.

There are indications that much more is afoot in connection with the "silly cloak and dagger raid" on Mr. Tofte's home last week than is obvious.

Mr. Tofte, for instance, has been critical of the appointment of "one of us" (career agent Helms) as director of the CIA.

He also is believed under fire from the Agency's desk-bound bureaucrats, some of whom are the targets of his proposal — known cryptically as "Five-By-Five"—to revamp the CIA's entire training procedures.

There is some suspicion that the "raid" on his home was ordered by these officials, whose apparently constant battles with active "operatives" such as Mr. Tofte, have caused the CIA much embarrassment before.